

**SUGGESTED REMARKS**

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Closing Program, Training of Trainers (TOT)  
Professional Development Center  
Commission on Audit (COA), Quezon City  
Wednesday, March 1, 2006**

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Chairman Carague and other COA officials;  
Participants from COA;  
The Office of the Ombudsman;  
Bureau of Internal Revenue;  
Revenue Integrity Protection Service;  
The Anti-Money Laundering Council;  
Partners and friends.

*Magandang umaga.*

On behalf of the U.S. Government team working in the Philippines, I congratulate each of you for completing this intensive 8-day Training of Trainers. As you all know, this training is a critical part of a broader financial investigation training program. We are counting on you to contribute your new skills in helping

deliver the in-depth financial investigation training program planned for later this year.

Also, I want to communicate to you the commitment of the United States to work with you and the government of the Philippines in its fight against corruption, fraud and mismanagement, specifically during this time of fiscal austerity.

I would also like to thank Chairman Carague for the Commission on Audit's (COA) generous co-sponsorship of this activity. My thanks also go to the hard-working training faculty - Larry Mapulon, Doy Romero, Kiko Magno, Mai Añonuevo - as well as to the indefatigable ROLE staff,

especially Art Mendez and Carol Pascual-Sanchez, for helping make this activity a success.

Each of you was selected for this training because you have the promising combination of technical and communication skills that would benefit from this training. The goal of this training is simple: to help you learn how to teach what you know more effectively. Many of us are confident about our knowledge of what we do, but the challenge here is to transfer that knowledge to someone else. Therefore, the main format of this training was to get you to actually teach, not just to listen to Art and the faculty! We took to heart the words of one wise man: *"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."*

I trust you have understood a good deal of what it takes to be a good trainer.

I am happy to see representatives from five (5) investigative bodies training together. This is necessary because each of your agencies needs to work together. Your respective agencies pursue specific crimes: the Ombudsman, COA and RIPS run after fraud and corruption, the BIR goes after tax evaders, and the AMLC targets money-launderers. Yet these crimes are often connected to each other. Where there is corruption there is also likely tax evasion and money-laundering, and vice-versa. Corruption produces illegal income that's naturally not declared to avoid taxes and is then laundered to make it seem legitimate. The government and the

public, thus, suffer in more ways than one: funds are stolen for which no taxes are paid, which are later invested in business activities to further criminality.

Fortunately, there is now a growing realization that these separate crimes should be pursued not in isolation but in combination. We hope that in the future, those engaged in public corruption, fraud or government mismanagement will be pursued and prosecuted on all levels. Inter-agency cooperation in investigating financial crimes is critical not only because the crimes are connected, but also because investigation powers are diffused. We are hopeful that by working together COA, AMLC, BIR, RIPS, and other law enforcement agencies will

become more than the mere sum of their parts with respect to enforcing the laws of the Philippines.

Working with other agencies at times can slow things down, even paralyze things. It's like management by committee. We hope that the inter-agency trainings we have been supporting will help break down barriers and establish open communications to allow each of you to work together effectively.

Somebody once said that "the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement". I hope this training will not be the end of your learning to be excellent teachers. The goal should be what one writer once said of teachers: "The mediocre

teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." I hope that when you go back to your respective agencies you will improve from just being a good teacher to being a great one. The ultimate proof of this, of course, will be in the quality of inter-agency investigations and the success of coordinated prosecutions. I have every confidence you will help lead the way.

*Mabuhay kayong lahat! Salamat!*